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General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 114 (b)
Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The Secretary-General has received notification of the resignation of Kunal Khatri (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) from the Committee on Contributions, with effect from 18 April 2016. Accordingly, the General Assembly will be required to appoint, at its current session, a person to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term of office of Mr. Khatri, which expires on 31 December 2017.

2. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has nominated Simon Hough to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr. Khatri.

3. In a communication dated 26 April 2016, the Secretariat was informed by the Chair of the Group of Western European and other States that the candidature of Mr. Hough had been endorsed by the Group.

4. The candidate's curriculum vitae is contained in the annex to the present note.

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Annex

Simon Hough (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)*

Profile

Simon Hough is currently employed as Deputy Chief Economist in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He has over a decade of experience working in government, leading multidisciplinary teams providing bespoke macroeconomic analysis and advice to Secretaries of State, Ministers and senior officials. He has proven ability delivering at pace and with impact, and is experienced at building highly successful working relationships with other government departments, think tanks and business leaders. He possesses in-depth knowledge of the work of international organizations, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations.

Work experience

2013-2016: Deputy Chief Economist, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom (FCO), United Kingdom

Responsible for setting the strategic direction of, and quality assuring, the analytical work of the Economic Unit. Line management responsibility for two of the Unit's four teams. Also represents the FCO Director of Economics at International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meetings, Directors General meetings, on the Board of the Government Economic Service and in ministerial-level briefings.

Recent outputs include: analysis of, and reporting on, economic developments in China and the immediate neighbourhood; identifying the opportunities and challenges presented by the creation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative; developing a framework for setting United Kingdom export targets; quantifying the benefits associated with inward and outward direct investment; joint work with the Finance Directorate on future overseas development assistance eligibility; and writing a major think piece on "The world in 2030", which eventually fed into the United Kingdom's recent Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Key achievements also include: strengthening the Economics Unit's relationships with United Kingdom Trade and Investment, the Cabinet Office, Her Majesty's Treasury, the Joint Intelligence Committee and the intelligence services; serving as focal point for a number of the Unit's commercial contacts and stakeholders, including the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, Jardine Matheson and the China-Britain Business Council; developing highly productive relationships with the French and German Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the European External Action Service and the State Department, including organizing and representing FCO in regular triannual catch-ups.

* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

His recent work has involved extensive travel to FCO posts overseas and other Ministries of Foreign Affairs, including in Paris, Brussels, Berlin, Sydney, Lima and Beijing.

2006-2012: Senior Economist, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, United Kingdom

Main responsibilities included leading face-to-face briefings with Ministers and senior officials on key macroeconomic developments at home and abroad; supervising the production of written briefings on the latest official data and business surveys; overseeing the production of the *Weekly Economic Update* and the *Dashboard of Current Economic Indicators*; producing longer analytical papers on the current economic challenges facing the United Kingdom; acting as an advocate within the Department for Business Innovation and Skills for the analysis of the macroeconomics team; and liaising with key domestic stakeholders, such as the Confederation of British Industry and the Engineering Employers' Federation, and with other Governments through OECD, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Other projects included: producing regular briefings and analysis for the Permanent Secretary on the euro-area crisis; coordinating the macroeconomic input of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills into cross-Whitehall work on, e.g., developments in Libya and the risks to the United Kingdom, the impact of ash clouds on the United Kingdom economy, etc.; co-authoring several Cabinet papers on the barriers to future United Kingdom growth; leading the work of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills on developing future growth scenarios; providing dedicated economic advice to Baroness Vadera, particularly at the height of the 2008-2009 financial crisis; and overseeing the development of the economic content of *Civil Service Live*.

Earlier work on the impact of globalization and the rise of the BRICs (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and China) included production of an economics paper, "Globalization and the changing United Kingdom economy", and an agreed, cross-government "narrative" on the benefits and challenges of globalization. He also represented the United Kingdom Government in the OECD Working Party on Globalization of Industry.

2005-2006: Economic Adviser, Credit Risk Analysis Division, Export Credits Guarantee Department, United Kingdom

As a country risk expert, worked closely with FCO to advise the Risk Committee of the Export Credits Guarantee Department on the economic and political risks in individual Middle Eastern and North African countries, especially Iran and Saudi Arabia. Also played a central role in the development of credit ratings for individual Middle Eastern and North African countries that were used by the Risk Committee.

Drafted occasional papers for senior officials of the Export Credits Guarantee Department on specific country risks, including: the impact of the October 2005 earthquake on Pakistan's economy and its demand for export credit insurance; upside and downside risks associated with high oil prices; the international community's likely reaction to Iran's uranium enrichment; and the impact of the

Arabian stock market crashes. Also represented the United Kingdom Government at the regular meetings of country risk experts of OECD.

2004-2005: Assistant Economist, Employment Market Analysis and Research, Department of Trade and Industry, United Kingdom

Responsibilities included: providing regular briefings on trends in labour market disputes; quantifying the costs and benefits associated with proposed United Kingdom and European Union labour market legislation, including age discrimination legislation; and managing a joint Department of Trade and Industry-Work Foundation project on high-performance workplaces. In 2005, he also helped organize a high-profile European Union Presidency conference in London entitled "High-performance workplaces: because people mean business".

Education and qualifications

1995-2003: PhD in Economics, European University Institute, Italy

PhD thesis (supervised by Professor Soren Johansen) was an econometric study of the financial performance of works of art vis-à-vis equities, corporate and government bonds and commercial and residential property. The thesis also analysed the impact of trade restrictions on the free movement of works of art across borders on auction prices. Additional subjects of taught courses included econometrics, financial markets, macroeconomics, microeconomics and research techniques.

1993-1995: MA (Econ) in Economics, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Subjects studied included econometrics, international monetary economics, international trade theory, macroeconomics, microeconomics, poverty, inequality and government policy in less developed countries and statistical inference. Final dissertation compared the economic efficiency of competing auction mechanisms using a number of econometric tests.

1990-1993: BSc (Hons) in Economics, University of Salford, United Kingdom

Subjects studied included econometrics, international economics, macroeconomics, microeconomics and statistics.